

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently amended) ~~A blast~~ An explosion protection system for protecting an asset from ~~a blast~~ an explosion force, the system comprising:

 a shaft;

 a plurality of plates mounted on the shaft;

 a panel attached to a first plate of the plurality of plates and for receiving the ~~blast~~ explosion force and transmitting a portion of the ~~blast~~ explosion force to the first plate; and

 a base attached to a second plate of the plurality of the plates and for receiving a portion of the force transmitted to the first plate by the panel,

 wherein the force received by the base is less than the ~~blast~~ explosion force.

Claim 2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plates have a concave side and a convex side.

Claim 3. (original) The system of claim 2, wherein the plates are disks.

Claim 4. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plates are Belleville springs.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the system is for placing between the ~~blast~~ explosion force and the asset.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A method of protecting an asset from a ~~blast~~ an explosion force, the method comprising:

receiving the ~~blast~~ explosion force with a panel;

transmitting a portion of the ~~blast~~ explosion force from the panel to a first plate of a plurality of plates, the plurality of plates being mounted on a shaft; and

transmitting a portion of the force transmitted to the first plate to a base attached to a second plate of the plurality of the plates,

wherein the force transmitted to the base is less than the ~~blast~~ explosion force.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein at least one of the plurality of plates slides on the shaft when the portion of the force transmitted to the first plate is transmitted to the base.

Claim 8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein a majority of the plurality of plates slide on the shaft when the portion of the force transmitted to the first plate is transmitted to the base.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of plates are prestressed against each other before being subjected to the ~~blast~~ explosion force.

Claim 10. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of plates is slidably mounted on the shaft.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein a majority of the plurality of plates are slidably mounted on the shaft.

Claim 12. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of plates are prestressed against each other.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the panel is sized and shaped to deflect substantially all of the ~~blast~~ explosion force either around the asset or through the system.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the panel is sized and shaped to deflect substantially all of the ~~blast~~ explosion force either around the asset or through the system.